

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregational Council Meeting  
Monday, October 17, 2011

Present: Eric Moehring, Pastor; Kristin Hunsinger, Associate Pastor; John Jung, Council President; Brenda Barnes, Vice President; Paul Quel, Treasurer; Mason Carbaugh, Lori Faudale, Trenton Hizer, Lynne McAfee, Mike Rydel, Joe Santuk (current Council members), and Dennis Burns, Heather Heckel, George Springer, Sarah Vaughan (Council-elect members)

Guest: Leslie Canady from the YMCA

Absent: Rob Barricklow (resigned), Danielle Bosdell, Jim Pickels, Laurie Snyder

Pastor Eric opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:05.

John introduced Leslie Canady, one of the leaders of the YMCA Camp Watka summer program housed here at Christ Lutheran. The summer program was a community development program where about 50 children from the area participated for free. Leslie explained that the YMCA wants to continue an after school program for area children, mainly from Trevvett, Lakeside, and Holladay Elementary Schools with Christ Lutheran as the host facility. They are going to try to model it after the "Young Einsteins" Program, which currently runs at Deep Run HS, where student mentors are matched with children from at risk backgrounds. This would be a fee based program, dependent on income, and would provide scholarships to those in need. The program would run during the school year with the teachers arriving at 1:45 pm and the students arriving at 2:15 pm with all leaving by 6:30 pm. Several questions were raised about the time overlap of other events, the need for extra trash pickup, and storage issues. It was decided that, if this would work, there would need to be a liaison from Christ Lutheran to help negotiate the issues as they arise. Dennis Burns, who will be on Council next year, volunteered for the position.

The motion to have the YMCA program in the Fellowship Hall at Christ Lutheran for one school year with Dennis Burns as the church liaison was brought to a vote and passed unanimously.

Before she left, John thanked Leslie and the YMCA for having the floors in the Fellowship Hall and down the hallway in the Christian Education wing professionally cleaned.

A motion to accept the September Council Minutes as written was approved.

Brenda Barnes and Diane Benz were recognized as fine hostesses after organizing, cooking, and serving the brunch to celebrate CARITAS, its workers, and especially Tinky Keen on October 16. Brenda will follow up the event with a Newsletter article thanking all involved and encouraging members to fill the leadership positions for CARITAS to continue at our church.

Pastor Kristin has contacted Chris Dry to help recommend logistics for the monitor project in the Commons Area. He is checking into the best monitor size and brand to mount on the wall outside the library. A computer is needed to hook up to the video cable. Bill Franz is checking at Randolph-Macon for an old used one that can be donated, and several others may have leads on used computers. Heather Heckel has agreed to run and update the programs on the monitor's computer.

A motion to allot \$3,000 to purchase a "new" used piano for the sanctuary from memorial money and to remove the two old pianos was approved. A member has offered to pay for the piano, but that is still uncertain.

Pastor Eric referred to the Mission Team restructure handout and suggested that each Council member look over the ministries to determine which he or she would like to oversee or one will be chosen by Pastor. Heather Heckel chose Christian Education, Sarah Vaughan chose Evangelism, Dennis Burns chose Stewardship, and it was suggested that Diane Kellogg oversee Music. These positions will help improve communication between the ministries and the Council. Discussion and assignments of the leadership positions will continue next month.

The Christmas Task Force is developing the "Waiting for Christmas" program, and post cards will be sent for this November 19<sup>th</sup> event. The Christmas Pageant will be on December 18<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 service. Stan Carey is heading up a fellowship event for congregation members and friends to see "A Christmas Carol" at the Glen Allen Performing Arts Center on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Paul Quel reported the church's expenses were on track and that the delinquent benevolences were sent to Synod. He noted the numbers on the monthly financial report.

#### Pastor Eric's Report (see report)

- Note the report on Staff relations and the Support of Ministry Committee
- A motion to take \$500 out of the Food Pantry budget and write a check to the LAMB's Basket was presented and passed.

#### Pastor Kristin's Report

- As of the registration deadline, there are 11 youth and 2 adults attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans next July.
- Lost and Found registrations so far include 6 youth and 3 adults who are attending the synod event.
- On November 13<sup>th</sup> the Fall Festival RALY event will be hosted by Christ Lutheran with Pastor Chip Gunston, assistant to the bishop, attending. Anyone who has yard games such as corn hole, ladder golf, etc. is encouraged to lend them to the youth.

A motion was made and approved to accept Rob Barricklow's resignation from Council with no replacement, since he was to go off the Council in December.

John reported that Glen Kellogg and Judson Hendricks have agreed to help with budget formation. It was noted that budget formation may need to just be based on the pledges received and work backwards. Stewardship Sunday is planned for November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Brenda will send a reminder for the meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> with this Council, the new Council members, and staff to develop topics and implement an evangelism program based on the "Lost Sheep" findings.

The next Council meeting will be held on November 21<sup>st</sup> in the Central Classroom, as the pledges will be in by then and Council can work on the budget.

After the Remarks for the Good of the Church, Pastor Eric closed the meeting with "The Lord's Prayer" at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Dry, Council Secretary

Eric J. Moehring, Pastor  
Christ Lutheran Church, Richmond, VA  
Congregation Council Meeting  
October 17, 2011

**1. In the October Newsletter I wrote articles about 2 items that seem to keep resurfacing:**

**IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS**

How do you get to Pastor Kristin and me with your concerns? The easiest way is by talking to us. A standard as pastors is that whatever you have to say, you are able to say it without our being judgmental toward you. Lutheran pastors realize that we all fall short of God's glory (pastors too). So as you come to us, you are coming to a fellow "sinner of God's redeeming." Also there is confidentiality. What is spoken is kept in that place and time, not to be repeated by you or the pastor.

But sometimes that may be difficult for you to do. So Christ Church has another vehicle for conversation. Over the years it has had many names: our constitution calls it the "Staff Support Committee;" synod calls it a "Mutual Ministry Committee;" when we approve a revised constitution, it is slated to be called "Support of Ministry Committee." And we have chosen to include other staff that desire to connect with the committee.

Whatever it is called, the purpose is the same; it is committed to:

- 1.) Be a sounding board for the staff
- 2.) Be a sounding board for members in the congregation
- 3.) Be a conduit for connecting staff and members

The following is a list of staff and their Staff Support persons:

Pastor Moehring	Bill Franz (also chair of the committee)
Pastor Hunsinger	Cynthia St. John
Katy Vess	Diane Ransone
Linda Keener	Naomi Faust
Susan Nepomuceno	Carole Mitas

This way of open communication is here for you. This is a key to keeping a healthy Christ Church.

**TIME AWAY FOR THE PASTORS**

Lots of things I hear only second-hand. Sometimes it's that a member is sick or needs something; other times it's something on someone's mind. Here's one item: Time off for the pastors.

There is the reality of overlapping days away because of meetings, conferences, continuing education events and vacation. We try very hard to not let this happen, but sometimes it just does. But the bottom line is: We make sure those days are covered. Fortunately, we have two other pastors in our church, a parish nurse and pastors in the area who are more than happy to help.

Then, there is the other item: Pastor Kristin and I are scheduled to take Fridays off. First of all, it is not a given that we do get a day off in the week. Funerals, weddings, emergencies and church events come to mind. Why have we chosen the same day? Here are three realities:

- 1.) The natural flow of a church week does start on Sunday.
- 2.) Council, Staff and many ministries meet Mondays.

3.) If one of us takes Monday off, for that person it means a day lost for meetings and visits. (What member wants a Friday evening meeting? Who wants a Friday visit when most members are trying to get things caught up to have the weekend?)

What have we done to make sure there is coverage? Pastors are always on call, 24/7. However, to ensure some break, Pastor Kristin and I split coverage between us on weekends (including Fridays). If you call, a pastor will respond to your call.

And when the office is closed (holidays and Katy's vacation days), we still cover those days. But remember to call the church office because your pastors don't wait in the office for someone who just might stop by; we are out serving you.

## **2. From a recent Council meeting: Something we should not simply discuss and then table by our inaction:**

In Stan Carey's and Gerald Ransone's report on inactive members, they made the following recommendations:

- 1) We need to consider a regular attendant in the nursery.
- 2) We need to consider a transportation arrangement to benefit those unable to drive.
- 3) We need to consider programs to attract "young adults."
- 4) As we are too often viewed as unfriendly, we should consider regular greeters to assist our pastors (before and following services and at other activities).
- 5) We should consider the virtues and values of periodic contemporary services.
- 6) There were some negative comments relative to handling of crisis situations involving our members. We should consider an arrangement in which lay people might assist our pastors on home visits or calls.

My questions are:

- 1.) What 3 top items do we need to and/or feel we can take care of immediately?
- 2.) Who are those we have prayerfully lifted up to lead the effort in each of the top 3 items?
- 3.) Have we reported to Stan and Gerald about the above 2 answers?

## **3. I will be taking my last 2 vacation Sundays (and as much of the 2 weeks as possible) on November 27 and December 25.**

## **4. The following Staff members have agreed to the following ministry oversight in our new structure:**

Christian Education – Pastor Hunsinger  
Collective Ministries – Cathy Lantz and Susan Nepomuceno  
Evangelism Ministry – Pastor Moehring  
Music Ministry – Linda Keener  
Stewardship Ministry – Pastor Moehring  
Youth Ministry – Pastor Hunsinger

Now, which 2012 Council Members will serve as liaisons to which Ministries?

## **5. Stewardship Ministry Request:**

That on November 6, Christ Church have one Service at 9:30 am (no Sunday School) in order to have a unified Celebration Sunday event for the 2011 Stewardship Campaign, "Make It Simple." Following the service there

will be a meal. Jennifer John is cooking the meat (chicken and pork loin) and the congregation will bring the other items.

**6. Request for LAMB's Basket Aid:**

Several years ago Christ Church ceased to financially support the LAMB's Basket (\$1,200 per year) because of the insistence of the board to maintain a high Reserve Fund of over \$50,000. Due to the increased demands upon the financial resources of the LAMB's Basket because of increased use by the community and a drop in contributions of food and monetary gifts, I would recommend that we request Paul Quel to send the LAMB's Basket a check for \$500 in 2011 and a check for \$1,000 in 2012 (\$500 each in March and September).